

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Tim Ochnikowski, Director
September, 2018

MINUTES

ABLE, Central Library Building
803 W. Wells Street, Milwaukee

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

1:02 pm

ITEM II ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Falk-Palec led the self-introductions of everyone in attendance.

Commissioners Present:, Deb Falk-Palec, John Haupt, Supervisor Willie Johnson, Anne Kearney, Denise Koss, Barbara Leigh, Cheri McGrath,

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Marcia Perkins, Sue Pickering, Meg Steimle, and Kathy Zalewski

Guests: Fran Musci – Transit Plus, Roberto Escamilla, Zarina Mohd Shah - WTBBL, Katie Mallo - WTBBL, Cheryl Orgas – ABLE Now, Damian Buchman – The Ability Center

Staff: Mike Bonk

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINTUES (July)

No Quorum

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

Katie provided information regarding the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library. Individuals with disabilities can apply for an application for Free Library Services. Individuals may qualify if they have a visual impairment, physical impairment, or reading disability. 7000 patrons are currently eligible for the program. Katie demonstrated how the audio players work. Cheryl Orgas presented the Special Report from Audio & Braille Literary Enhancement (ABLE) Services. ABLE is a nonprofit. Braille and audio tactile services. ABLE local produces audio for local magazines, books, etc. ABLE translates books into Braille for students.

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Fran Musci provided the Transit Plus Report. Transit Plus provided 280,125 van rides 93% on time performance for the first half of the year. Route 61 is up for discussion onto whether the route will be eliminated to Menomonee Falls due to funding issues. Guest Roberto Escamilla asked how many taxi rides are there on average per month. Ms. Musci explained that they average 3000-5000 taxi rides per month. Roberto explained that they're have been issues with taxi drivers complaining about picking up subsidized rides. Chairwoman Deb Falk Palec commended Commissioners Koss, and McGrath for all of their volunteer work with driver trainings, and securement trainings.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

No committees met.

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Recreation Report

Staff Mike Bonk reported there was lower camper attendance at camp due to the lack of staff available at camp. Overall the camp experience was one of the best in Mike's time with the county, and attributes it to the lower camp attendance as well as qualified staff that was hired. All staff that was hired are looking for careers full-time that work with persons with disabilities. Chelsea at Easterseals did a great job of hiring and training the staff this year in her second camp season. Unfortunately Chelsea has accepted a position outside of Easterseals, and now they are looking to fill her position. Mike also reported that he has been working collaboratively with additional groups to hosting Tap the Potential events. Events include the Mitchell International Airport Art Show, White Cane Day Flash Mob, and Fashion Show.

B. Fiserv Forum Accessibility



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Timothy Ochnikowski, Mike Bonk, and Chairwoman Deb Falk Palec toured the new arena. The new forum offers ADA seating at all levels, open captioning on the screens, assisted listening devices, and sign languages interpreters upon request. All of the bathrooms in the arena are ADA compliant. The arena also has 7 sensory rooms, 2 of which are designed specifically for guests with developmental disabilities who need a quiet space during events. The sensory room include carpeting, comfortable furniture, and can play calming music into the rooms. The Milwaukee Bucks worked with Kulture City to provide additional sensory resource bags. In addition the Fiserv Forum has an adjustable-height adult changing table available.

C. Scooters / Bike Share – Milwaukee

Commissioner McGrath was hoping to get an update on if Bird scooters are being allowed by the city of Milwaukee, as they are a tripping hazard for persons with visual impairments, as the public has been leaving them in the public right of way. Chairwoman Deb Falk Palec explained that Bird scooters are not allowed and have been removed. The Chairwoman also gave an update regarding the dockless program, and explained that disability advocates were not allowed to speak at the public works committee meeting in July. Advocates wanted to explain that the way the rules were written limit handcycles. Advocates wants to have inclusion at the first level of bikes, and require the use of lock to technology to ensure the public right of way isn't cluttered. Bublr is a part of the adaptive workgroup, and the docked program. At the last workgroup meeting James Davies of Bublr, brought in a device that would be able to customize an adaptive bike to fit within the Bublr Stations.

D. Future Presentations (ABLE, IRIS, The Hop, Others)

In October the commission is hoping to have Dan Krohn speak in regards to IRIS and the Management Group.

E. Chairperson's Report –

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Chairwoman Deb Falk Palec adjourned the meeting at 2:32pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be October 8th, 2018, 1:00pm at St. John's on the Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Ave.

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission